

and flatters them as he does with a sprightly, forward child; but he neither consults them about, nor trusts them with serious matters; though he often makes them believe that he does both.<sup>1</sup> Letter CCLIV, "Try to engage the heart of every woman and the affections of almost every man you meet with,"<sup>2</sup> Occasionally, Chesterfield reveals a hidden respect for womankind; for example, Letter XCV, "Civility is particularly due to all women; and remember, that no provocation whatsoever can justify any man in not being civil to every woman; and the greatest man in England would justly be reckoned a brute, if he were not civil to the meanest woman;"<sup>3</sup> and Letter CXXXV, "The company of women of fashion will improve your manner, though not your understanding; and that complaisance and politeness, which are so useful in men's company, can only be acquired in women's."<sup>4</sup>

Dress, then, as always, was a matter of much thought. Castiglione says, "I will have the Courtier in all his garments handsome and cleanly, and take a certain delight in modest precision, but not for all that after a womanish or light manner, neither more in one point than in another, as we see many so curious about their hair that they forget all the rest."<sup>5</sup> Casa, "When you go into public, let your dress be genteel, and suitable to your age and station of life. He that does otherwise, shews contempt of the world, and too great an opinion of his own importance."<sup>6</sup>

1. Chesterfield's Letters to His Son, p 182, Letter CLXI.

2. ep. cit., p 391, Letter CCLIV.

3. ep. cit., p 93, Letter XCV.

4. ep. cit., p 137, Letter CXXXV.

5. The Courtier, p 128.

6. Galateo, p 41.